

Heber City Officials Consider Renovation of LDS Tabernacle

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HEBER CITY — If current plans are successful, the historic Heber Tabernacle will soon undergo a complete renovation. City officials are in the process of applying for a federal grant that will fund the project and, when completed, the Tabernacle will house the Heber City offices.

The grant, available from the Economic Development Administration, could provide up to \$600,000 in federal funds. The amount of the grant must be matched by at least 20 percent from Heber City.

According to federal guidelines grants of this type are to be used in areas of high unemployment to provide work for the unemployed. With a projected December unemployment rate of 15.1 percent for Wasatch County, Heber City should have no trouble in qualifying.

The city has retained architects to make a study of the building, draw up preliminary plans and provide a cost estimate for the project. After inspection officials stated that the tabernacle is basically in good shape and would make an excellent facility for the city offices as well as preserving an historic structure.

The Heber Tabernacle was constructed between 1887 and 1889 as a stake house for the LDS Church. It was dedicated on May 5, 1889 by Elder Francis M. Lyman, an apostle of the church.

The LDS Church used the building for many years before finally deeding it to Wasatch County. Heber City has since acquired ownership, but the building has remained vacant for many years.

The Tabernacle has been surrounded by some controversy during recent years. Many feel the

building has outlived its usefulness and are against spending money to preserve it.

Those who favor preservation say there will never be a better opportunity to save the building and provide Heber with new offices. They point out that the original deed conveying title of the tabernacle to the county and city stipulates that the building is not to be torn down or used for private, commercial gain. With grant monies declining each year, and with the possibility of Heber receiving a grant, backers of the project say that now is the time to move.

The Heber City Council has scheduled a public hearing Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. to present the project and receive citizen input. Preliminary plans and cost estimates will be available then for public scrutiny.

*Congratulations
to our
City
Commissioners!*

First president of LDS Nauvoo restorers retires; new chief named

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Friday the retirement of Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball as president of Nauvoo Restoration Inc., which directs restoration efforts in the historical Illinois village of Nauvoo.

Kimball, 85, was instrumental in the founding of the organization in 1962 and has served as its only president during that nearly quarter of a century.

The First Presidency named as his successor Elder Loren C. Dunn, a member of the Church's First Quorum of the Seventy and president of the North America Northeast Area.



J. LeRoy Kimball

Elder Dunn's counselors in the area presidency, Elder Derek A. Cuthbert and Elder Keith W. Wilcox, will serve as NRI vice president and secretary, respectively.

Church officials said the purpose of NRI is to restore the historically important part of the old town of Nauvoo to what it was when it flourished during the period 1839-46 as one of the vibrant forces in the westward expansion of America.



Loren C. Dunn

NRI is also designed to give an understanding of the people of Nauvoo as shown by the homes they built and the way they lived and an understanding of their emotions and the strength of their faith, which made them abandon their temple, their homes and their city and start on their long trek westward.

Nauvoo, which means "a beautiful place," is situated on the Mississippi River across from Iowa. It was founded in the late 1830s by early leaders of the church and grew into a sizable community, rivaling Chicago at the time.

After the death of church president Joseph Smith, his successor, Brigham Young, led the Latter-day Saints west to the Rocky Mountains, where they settled Salt Lake City, which has been the world headquarters of the church since.

Over the years, more than 1,000 acres of Nauvoo land and numerous buildings have been purchased, a visitors center has been built and more than 30 of the old homes and business buildings have been restored.